

LOWNDES COUNTY

Honorable Terri Bozeman

Lowndes County Courthouse
P.O. Box 455
Hayneville, AL 36040
(334) 548-2591

Audrey Peterson
Erica Chatman
Richard Engle
Pauline Jones
Vera Larkin
James Collins
Dale Braxton
Debra Caldwell-Bush
Willie Vaughmer

Kathy Jones
Lenny Lawson
John Hulett
Carolynn Taylor
Fletcher Fountain
Arthur Nelson
Aaron McCall
Angela McCall
Sam Cooper, Jr.

Rebecca T. Harrison
Charlie King
John Andrews
J. William Covington
Jo McCoy
John Olsen
Narah Cano
Gloria Canty
Faye Nelson



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Promote economic security among families in Lowndes County by teaching financial literacy.
2. Secure funding for existing programs that are making a positive change in the lives of Lowndes County children and their families.
3. Community awareness of existing resources.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Teen pregnancy and high risk behaviors with a focus on STD's

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Emphasize education using multi-component intervention-after school programs, awareness of STD's, sex education, and abstinence education. Continue our support of existing pregnancy prevention programs in the Lowndes County school system. Help sponsor a Back to School Rally
- Network with organizations to assist with 4th Annual Lowndes County Health Fair
- Continue to explore funding opportunities for promoting, developing and expanding Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Abstinence programs
- Help sponsor a mother/daughter luncheon focusing on abstinence

Substance Abuse

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Support NCADD in their efforts to continue the five-week Youth Substance Abuse Course at the Family Service Center of Lowndes County.
- Encourage groups to sponsor community workshops that focus on prevention and drug issues.
- Support agencies that are seeking funds to provide treatment resources for youth.
- Coordinate prevention through SAMSHA for program funding and information

Promote Health Lifestyles

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Partner with agencies and service providers in an effort to have all children immunized and to promote such events as the annual health fair, teen health rally and immunization days.
- Continue community information/outreach efforts for insurance availability and services being offered to children and families in Lowndes County.
- Promote health awareness programs in the community.
- Continue our partnership with the Community Care Network to bring the mobile adult unit and pediatric unit to rural areas in Lowndes County on bi-monthly basis. Also, assist Community Care Network in their efforts to secure to expand their services to other Black Belt Counties.

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Supervision of Children

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Assess existing need for after-school programs as well as for programs to provide supervision to children during school breaks and holidays.
- Identify existing programs that are currently available to youth
- Support existing mentoring programs in the community.
- Work with the two high schools to develop a youth advisory council.

School Safety

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek funding through the Children's Policy Council for school resource/prevention officer
- Expand anger management and conflict resolution classes into the schools and train staff on bullying
- Continue work with Drug Task Force, ABC Board and Sheriff to eliminate drug activity on school campuses

Detention of Violent Offenders

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek funding for more detention beds for violent juveniles.
- Work with the County Commission, Juvenile Court and Sheriff to devise a plan best suited to meet the needs of juvenile offenders in Lowndes County.

Education - Children

learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Funding

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Support efforts to increase funding for Lowndes County schools and youth programs.
- Collaborate with Lowndes County Board of Education and other community organizations in grant writing efforts.

School Climate, Graduation Rates and Drop-out Rates

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Expand and increase participation with Law Day activities
- "Acts of Encouragement" for students and teachers
- Host a Teacher Appreciation breakfast at each school by Lowndes County Children's Policy Council
- Back to School Rally--Recognize successful Lowndes County Public School graduates

Truancy

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Implement, through the Family Service Center, Anger Management classes at both middle schools and both high schools
- Attendance Rewards--host a pizza party for all students with perfect attendance each semester at each school
- Team with Lowndes County Board of Education to find ways to expand Project Success and other Alternative School programs
- Assist Lowndes County Board of Education in finding ways to strengthen the Early Warning System
- Truancy prevention/intervention assistance

Early Care and

Education - Children

(0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

School Readiness programs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Continue to assist and support HeadStart
- Continue to assist and support STEP
- Continue to assist and support HIPPO
- Become active in the River Regions United Way "Born Learning" program

Child Care

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Work with staff at child care centers
- Work with individuals involved in relative child care
- Expand the HIPPO program
- Utilize the "Born Learning" program

Child Development

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Initiate an in-home learning program for parents of children 0-5 years
- Utilize the "Born Learning" program
- Initiate in-home program for teen mothers to teach developmental milestones

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Reading Proficiency

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Explore available reading enhancement programs K-6 and select one to support, implement and start pilot program

Financial Literacy

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Explore ways to partner with school to implement financial literacy education such as "Money Smart"
- Implement financial literacy program during 2005-2006 school year and evaluate
- Include job skills/work success skills training to promote understanding of basic world of work concepts

Parent Involvement and Skills - Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Parent Accountability

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Continue the Parent Project in Lowndes County, train more facilitators and have classes in all areas of the county
- Job preparation and readiness program. Work with Family Service Center of Lowndes

County to establish job prep classes in community

- Use a case management approach with families through the Family Service Center
- Promote adult literacy programs and job training opportunities.
- Offer financial management classes at Family Service Center of Lowndes County.
- Assist and promote job fairs, training opportunities and programs with job preparation component.
- Assist with early identification of parents of at-risk youth and refer the parents to parent education

courses with child (i.e. Parent Project)

Parent Involvement in Students' Education

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Provide a forum to share ideas for fostering positive parental involvement in children's education.
- Recognize those schools that successfully involve parents in the education process.
- Encourage participation in the Parent Project and Fatherhood Program.

Policy Recommendation

1. Develop and fund expanded access to health education programs and health services in rural areas.
2. Build database/network system to connect Health Department, Mental Health, DHR, Juvenile Court, Board of Education records with ability to identify children at risk.
3. Adequate funding of public education by the legislature including funding for a truancy officer and mental health social worker in each county.
4. Include financial literacy in elementary and high school curriculum.
5. Encourage Alabama agencies to provide funds for pre-school training programs such as H.I.P.P.Y. and Success by Six so that families with limited incomes will be helped.
6. Essential services must be adequately funded in this state if we are to move forward. The state must develop and implement a plan to meet these needs. Also, permanent funding is needed for the development and maintenance of a Family Resource Center in each county.

Accomplishments

1. The CPC through collaboration with the Community Care Network and Lowndes County Head Start has provided health screenings and services to over 1500 individuals at their annual health fairs.
2. Hosted annual Law Day celebration for students in grades 3 through grades 12 and has awarded over \$1,000.00 for winning poster and essay contests.
3. The CPC in collaboration with the Family Service Center of Lowndes County.
4. Awarded grants and contributions in 2005 from Alabama Power Company, the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation, General Electric Plastics, Cornerstone Community Foundation, Bancorp South Bank, First Lowndes Bank, Hayneville Telephone Company and Senator Hank Sanders.
5. Collaborated with the Family Service Center of Lowndes County to bring the Parent Project and HIPPI to Lowndes County families.

